

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CZ, US

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR CALLS ON ASSISTANT
SECRETARY STOESSEL

1. CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR SPACIL CALLED AT HIS REQUEST
ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL NOVEMBER 8 TO DISCUSS
BILATERAL MATTERS AND EUROPEAN ISSUES.

2. SPACIL SAID THAT CZECHOSLOVAKS WERE GENERALLY SATISFIED
WITH COURSE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. FINANCIAL NEGOTIATIONS
WERE IN PROGRESS, AND ALTHOUGH THEY WERE NOT MOVING
RAPIDLY, THERE WAS SOME HOPE FOR A "BREAKTHROUGH". THE
GOC WAS NATURALLY DISAPPOINTED BY REDUCED PROSPECTS FOR
MFN, ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY HAD HOPED TO MAKE THEIR CLAIMS
PAYMENTS OUT OF PROCEEDS FROM EXPORTS TO US, BUT PERHAPS
MFN NOT YET "FULLY LOST." GOC LOOKING FORWARD TO EXCHANGES
AGREEMENT NEGOTIATION, PREFERABLY IN PRAGUE. AS
FURTHER POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT, CZECHS EXPECTED VISIT BY
MAYOR WASHINGTON.

3. STOESSEL SAID THAT WE ALSO FELT RELATIONS PROGRESSING
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WELL. PROBLEMS MET DURING FINANCIAL NEGOTIATIONS IN

PRAGUE HAD NECESSITATED WORKING OUT NEW INSTRUCTIONS FOR OUR NEGOTIATORS, A TASK INVOLVING VARIOUS AREAS IN THE DEPARTMENT AND TREASURY. WE WERE AWARE OF FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK'S INTEREST IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND HOPED TO HAVE OUR INSTRUCTIONS OUT TO PRAGUE VERY SHORTLY.

4. STOESSEL MENTIONED OUR CONCERN ABOUT EXTREME NATURE OF SOME COMMENTS IN CZECH PRESS RE US ACTIONS IN MIDDLE EAST. HE STRESSED DESIRABILITY OF MODERATION IN THIS REGARD; SPACIL SAID HE UNDERSTOOD.

5. ON EXCHANGES AGREEMENT, STOESSEL HANDED SPACIL US DRAFT TEXT, NOTING THAT INITIAL COMMENTS ON EACH SIDE'S DRAFT COULD BE MADE IN PRAGUE THROUGH OUR EMBASSY AND THE MFA. STOESSEL SAID THAT WE PREFERRED TO LEAVE OPEN FOR TIME BEING QUESTION OF WHERE AND WHEN TO BEGIN FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS.

6. ON EUROPEAN MATTERS, SPACIL ASKED FOR US EVALUATION OF CSCE PROGRESS. STOESSEL REPLIED THAT PROGRESS SEEMED TO BE NORMAL; THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED WERE COMPLEX AND TIME CONSUMING, AND WE FORESAW A BREAK IN THE TALKS IN LATE DECEMBER AND RESUMPTION AFTER THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY. WE WANTED TO CONCLUDE TALKS AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE BUT HAVE NOT FIXED ANY DEADLINE. WITH REGARD TO BASKET THREE, WE BELIEVED THAT SOME PROGRESS WAS NECESSARY WITH DUE REGARD TO PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. SPACIL SAID THAT US SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND NON-INTERFERENCE PRINCIPLE, BUT THAT CERTAIN WESTERN COUNTRIES APPARENTLY DID NOT. STOESSEL REPLIED THAT HE FELT NO WESTERN PARTICIPANT HAD IN MIND PROPOSALS AIMED AT CHANGING ANY COUNTRY'S INTERNAL SYSTEM.

7. ON MBFR, SPACIL ASKED WHETHER US WAS DISAPPOINTED WITH PROGRESS TO DATE. STOESSEL SAID WE BELIEVED THE TALKS WERE OFF TO A GOOD START. THERE WAS OBVIOUSLY A DIFFERENCE IN EMPHASIS, BUT THIS WAS EXPECTED. WE WERE NOW STUDYING THE PROPOSALS WHICH THE SOVIETS HAD MADE. RUSH

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